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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

LAINE et al

Atty. Ref.: **30-543**

Serial No. **09/787,629**

Group: **1731**

Filed: **March 21, 2001**

Examiner: **Alvo, Marc S.**

For: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR THE THICKENING OF
FIBER SUSPENSIONS**

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August 22, 2002

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

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TC 1700

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT
AND ELECTION OF CLAIMS**

Responsive to the Office Action mailed July 31, 2002, please amend the above identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 1 through ~~19~~ 19 without disclaimer or prejudice to applicants' right to file a divisional application thereon.